

**Bill Analysis**  
**California Commission on Teacher Credentialing**  
**(For Information Only)**

<b>Bill Number:</b>	<b>Senate Bill 1408</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Senator John Vasconcellos</b>
<b>Sponsor:</b>	<b>Author</b>
<b>Subject of Bill:</b>	<b>High School Exit Exam</b>
<b>Date Introduced:</b>	<b>February 13, 2002</b>
<b>Date of Last Amendment:</b>	<b>May 28, 2002</b>
<b>Status in Leg. Process</b>	<b>Senate Appropriations Committee</b>
<b>Current CTC Position:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Recommended Position:</b>	<b>None: This bill is being presented for information only</b>
<b>Date of Analysis:</b>	<b>May 31, 2002</b>
<b>Analyst:</b>	<b>Anne L. Padilla</b>

**Summary of Current Law**

Current law, commencing with Education Code Section 60850, establishes the High School Exit Examination and requires that beginning with the 2003-04 school year, every high school student successfully pass the exit exam prior to graduation.

**Summary of Current Activity by the Commission**

The Commission has no jurisdiction over the High School Exit Examination. This item is being presented for information only.

**Analysis of Bill Provisions**

*As amended on April 29, 2002*, SB 1408 would have established an exception to the requirement that all students pass the high school exam by allowing school boards to waive this requirement for any student who meets all of the following requirements:

- The student or the student's parent or guardian requests a waiver;

- The student otherwise meets all coursework and state and local requirements for graduation;
- The student meets any one of the following criteria (which was to be cited by the school board when approving the waiver):
  1. received over 30 percent of his/her K-12 education in classrooms that lacked credentialed teachers (defined as teachers with preliminary or professional clear credentials);
  2. received over 50 percent of his/her K-12 education in classrooms that lacked adequate and appropriate instructional materials (as defined);
  3. was not enrolled in, or did not receive, instruction in curriculum determined to be necessary to answer questions and perform tasks on the high school exit exam;
  4. did not receive adequate educational opportunity to successfully complete the tasks required on the high school exit exam because of a combination of classrooms that lacked credentialed teachers and appropriate instructional materials.

In addition, the bill required that school boards waiving the high school exit exam requirements annually report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction on the number and percentage of waivers granted; the criteria used to justify approval of each waiver, and a correction plan, as specified. School districts were also required to report the numbers of exam waivers as a part of their Accountability Report Card results.

*The May 28, 2002 amendments* to SB 1408, deleted the high school exit exam waiver provisions specified in the earlier version of the bill and added provisions to require the governing boards of school districts granting high school graduation diplomas to: 1) compile data annually on items 1-4 (above) for grades 7-12 only; and 2) prepare an appropriate correction plan for any school district in which at least five percent of students fail any part of the high school exit exam, as specified. Additionally, the new amendments delete the requirement that the data be included as a part of Accountability Report Card reporting.

#### **Analysis of Fiscal Impact of Bill**

No fiscal impact on the Commission.

As amended on May 28, 2002, costs to school districts are now estimated to be \$100,000 in 2002-03, and \$200,000 in 2003-04.

#### **Organizational Positions on the Bill**

None noted.

**Comment:**

While still firmly committed to the goals of SB 1408 as outlined in previous versions of the bill, the author decided to amend the measure to significantly reduce the costs so that the bill could move out of the fiscal committee.